



BRIEF MEMOIR
OF
DENNIS CURTIS,

PREPARED BY HIS PASTOR,

REV. L. W. CRAWFORD,

*And read on the occasion of his funeral at the Methodist
Church, in Greensboro, Sept. 15, 1885.*

Published for private distribution among friends by the
family of the deceased.

GREENSBORO:
THOMAS, REECE & CO., JOB PRINTERS.
1885.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2013

MEMOIR.

The subject of this memoir, our dear departed brother, DENNIS CURTIS, was born in Randolph county, N. C., November 14th, 1826. He never possessed a robust, hardy constitution, but from boyhood was thoughtful, steady and energetic.

At an early age, by reason of his industrious and temperate habits, his strict attention to business and his marked propriety of conduct, he won the esteem and confidence of his employers in the town of Franklinsville and became a trusted and influential clerk in a mercantile house there.

While yet a young man he accepted a position in the Franklinsville Manufacturing Company, where he served with great efficiency for a number of years. On the organization of the Deep River Manufacturing Company he became a member of that corporation and gave his personal attention to its business.

Here, by reason of his marked integrity, his fair and upright dealing, his kindly attention to all with whom he was associated, he won the confidence, and to a great extent the affection, of the people generally in the community. In the year 1856 he was elected principal agent of the Deep River Manufacturing Company, and to his management was committed to a large

extent the business interests of that prosperous and influential corporation. So satisfactorily and successfully did he discharge the duties of his office, that for eighteen years he was annually re-elected to the same responsible position.

In 1880 he removed from Franklinsville to Greensboro, in order to engage personally in the mercantile business with the firm of Odell & Co., in which business he had had an interest for a number of years. Having exclusive charge of the retail department of this large establishment, he came directly in contact with the better class of people in Greensboro and the surrounding country. Such were his manners, his methods, his high-toned, gentlemanly bearing and spirit, that he won very soon the respect and confidence of the community, and it is but simple justice for me to say, that possibly no business man among us enjoyed a wider reputation for honesty, integrity and uprightness of character than did he.

Everywhere respected and appreciated, possibly, nowhere else were his many virtues and excellencies so clearly seen as in his domestic relations. As a husband and father he was constant, affectionate, gentle and forbearing. To him, in truth, there was "no place like home." He spared no effort to make home comfortable, attractive and pleasant, and he was never happier than when in the family circle surrounded by all the members of his household. This loving affection was mutual among the inmates, and his brightest, happiest hours were passed within the sacred precincts of his own quiet, lovely home.

Of his religious life and character much might be written.

It is not known certainly at what time he made a public profession of faith in Christ, but it was at an early period of his life. So uniform, consistent and upright had been his general deportment of conduct all the while, that there was little change in his outer life after he professed conversion. However, he became more interested in Church work, more attached to the preachers, and more anxious to do good. About the year 1860 he was elected Superintendent of our Sunday School at Franklinsville. For this work he was peculiarly adapted, being by nature fond of children, and so constituted as to take special pleasure in reading and studying the word of God and of instructing and encouraging the young. He was greatly beloved by both the teachers and pupils of his school, and so great was the satisfaction felt by the Church and people in regard to his work, that for eighteen years he was continued in the same position. To him this proved both a pleasant and profitable work, and he has often spoken to me of how much he enjoyed this labor of love in the vineyard of the Lord.

Three years ago he transferred his membership to the church in Greensboro, and at once became active and useful. In the fall of 1882 he was elected a steward, and also put in charge of the infant department of the Sunday School. In both of these positions he served with great fidelity, was prompt, attentive, industrious and intelligent. No member of the Official Body seemed more ready to approve what was proper

and more willing to help in everything that looked to the prosperity of the church, than was he. He was very fond of the public church service, and like the Psalmist, seemed always to say, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go unto the house of the Lord."

For some time past it has been his custom to sit near the pulpit and take notes of the sermon, that he might study it more thoroughly after his return home. He was also a diligent reader, and devoted much of his leisure time to the perusal of good books, and in this way continued to improve and enrich his mind, and also largely add to his store of knowledge.

There were two features of his religious character that ought especially to be made prominent.

The one was his readiness at all times to talk privately on the subject of religion. While he was always too timid to say much in church meetings, it seemed always a pleasure for him to converse privately about his own personal experience. He was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, because he felt that it was, to him, the power of God unto salvation.

Brother Curtis had not enjoyed perfect health for a number of years. Although he was active and kept constantly at work, his friends feared that his constitution was too much impaired to resist long the strain and wear of active business life. Alas, this fear was only too well founded. Last Winter he contracted deep cold, which settled upon his lungs and superinduced a violent case of pneumonia. For days and weeks it was uncertain whether or not he would be

able to resist the disease, but receiving the best medical attention, together with the most careful and tender nursing, by the blessing of God, he sufficiently recovered to return again to business for a few months, but kept feeble all the while.

About three months ago he began to suffer with what proved to be disease of the heart—defective heart action. This trouble at once alarmed his physician, for he feared it was of too serious a nature to be easily, if at all, remedied. These fears were well grounded.

Since that time he has all the while been in a most critical condition. Sometimes at the point of death, sometimes seemingly, but not really, better. This varying condition continued until ten days ago, when he began rapidly and steadily to decline. Day after day his symptoms became more alarming and his strength grew less, until, on Friday, all thought the end was at hand.

However, he developed some strength and rallied a little for a few hours, but on Saturday the life tide began surely to ebb away. Conscious, but unable to speak, without fear, and seemingly without suffering, he waited the final result. At 10½ o'clock, on Sunday night, Sept. 13th, surrounded by friends and loved ones, without a struggle he breathed his last and fell asleep. "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace."

"Jesus can make a dying bed
 Feel soft as downy pillows are,
 While on his breast I lean my head,
 And breathe my life out sweetly there."

Having finished his work on earth, Bro. Curtis has entered upon rest. He leaves the Church a rich legacy in a name unsullied, a character untarnished, and an example that we may all follow with safety.

May all the members of his household, and the entire membership of the Church, live as he lived, with constant reference to death and eternity, and may we all like him find, in Christ, a sure support in life and in death.

